His Majesties

MOST GRACIOUS

SPEECH

To both Houses of

PARLIAMENT,

On *Friday* the 21th of *March* 1689.

LONDON,
Printed by *Charles Bill* and *Thomas Newcomb*, Printers to the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties. MDCLXXXIX.

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To both HOUSES of

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Am Resolved to leave nothing unattempted on My Part, which may contribute to the Peace and Prosperity of this Nation; And finding My Presence in *Ireland* will be absolutely necessary for the more speedy Reducing of that Kingdom, I continue My Resolution of going thither as soon as may be; And I have now Called you together for your Assistance, to Enable Me to Prosecute the War with Speed and Vigour: In which I Assure My Self of your cheerful Concurrence, being a Work so necessary for your own Safeties.

In Order to this, I desire you will forthwith make a Settlement of the Revenue; and I cannot doubt, but you will therein have as much Regard for the Honour and Dignity of the Monarchy in My Hands, as has been lately shewed to others: And I have so great a Confidence in you, That if no Quicker or more Convenient way can be found for the Raising of Ready Money (without which the Service cannot be performed) I shall be very well Content, for the present, to have it made such a Fund of Credit as may be Useful to your selves as well as Me, in this Conjuncture, not having the least Apprehensions, but that you will provide for the taking off all such Anticipations as it shall happen to fall under.

It is sufficiently known how Earnestly I have Endeavoured to Extinguish (or at least Compose) all Differences amongst My Subjects, and to that End, how often I have Recommended an Act of Indemnity to the last Parliament; But since that Part of it which related to the Preventing of Private Suits is already Enacted, and because Debates of that Nature, must take up more of your Time

then can now be ſpared from the Diſpatch of thoſe other Things, which are abſolutely neceſſary for Our Common Safety, I intend to ſend you an Act of Grace, with Exceptions of ſome few Perſons only, but ſuch as may be ſufficient to ſhew My great Diſlike of their Crimes, and at the ſame time My Readineſs to extend Protection to all My other Subjects, who will thereby ſee, that they can Recommend themſelves to Me by no other Methods then what the Laws Preſcribe, which ſhall always be the only Rules of My Government.

A further Reaſon which induceth Me to ſend you this Act at this time, is, Becauſe I am deſirous to leave no Colour of Excuſe to any of My Subjects for the Raiſing of Diſturbances in the Government, and eſpecially in the time of My Abſence: And I ſay this, both to Inform you, and to let ſome Ill Affected Men ſee, That I am not unacquainted how buſie they are in their preſent Endeavours to Alter it.

Amongſt other Encouragements which I find they give themſelves, one of the Ways by which they hope to Compaſs their Deſigns, is, By creating Differences and Diſagreements in your Counſels, which I hope you will be very Careful to Prevent; For be aſſured, That Our greateſt Enemies can have no better Inſtruments for their Purpoſes, then thoſe who ſhall any way endeavour to Diſturb or Delay your Speedy and Unanimous Proceeding upon theſe neceſſary Matters.

I muſt Recommend alſo to your Conſideration an Union with *Scotland*; I do not mean it ſhould now be entred upon, but they having Propoſed this to Me ſome time ſince, and the Parliament there having Nominated Commiſſioners for that purpoſe, I ſhould be glad that Commiſſioners might alſo be Nominated here to Treat with them, and to ſee if ſuch Terms could be Agreed on, as might be for the Benefit of both Nations, ſo as to be ready to be Preſented to you in ſome future Seſſion.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have thought it moſt convenient to leave the Adminiſtration of the Government in the Hands of the QUEEN during My Abſence; And if it ſhall be judg'd neceſſary to have an Act of Parliament for the better Confirmation of it to Her, I Deſire you will let ſuch an one be prepared to be Preſented to Me.

I have this only to add, That the Seaſon of the Year, and My Journey into *Ireland*, will admit but of a very ſhort Seſſion; ſo that I muſt Recommend to you the making ſuch Diſpatch, that We may not be Engaged in Debates when Our Enemies ſhall be in the Field: for the Succeſs of the War, and the more Thrifty Management of it, will both principally depend upon your ſpeedy Reſolutions. And I hope it will not be long before We ſhall Meet again, to perfect what the Time will not now allow to be done.

FINIS.